

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJ: ILO - STATEMENTS BY USREP HOROWITZ, JUNE 3, PLENARY

REF: GENEVA 4437

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS (FROM PROVISIONAL RECORD) OF EXTEMPORANEOUS
REMARKS MADE BY USREP HOROWITZ DURING DEBATE ON ASSIGNING
ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. BEGIN TEXT:
MR. HOROWITZ (GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, UNITED
STATES) I THINK THERE IS ONE THING THAT ALL OF THE SPEAKERS HAVE
REFERRED TO, STARTING WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WHEN HE
MADE HIS REPORT. THE DECISION ON THIS MATTER--APPROVAL OF THE RE-
COMMENDATION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE--IS A VERY IMPORTANT
QUESTION. AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE SAID, IT
COULD VERY WELL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE ILO.

WHAT ARE WE REALLY DEALING WITH? ARTICLE 17 NOW PROVIDES,
AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITH RESPECT TO RESOLUTIONS, THAT THE DIRECTOR-
GENERAL MAY WITHHOLD CERTAIN TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS. THERE IS
NO DEFINITION AND THEREFORE, CLEARLY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
HAS FOUND THIS UNWORKABLE. A DEFINITION IS NECESSARY SINCE THERE IS
ALREADY IN THAT ARTICLE A PROVISION FOR WITHHOLDING RESOLUTIONS.
IT IS VITAL THAT THE CONFERENCE (YES, THE CONFERENCE, BECAUSE SEVER-
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AL OF THE SPEAKERS THIS AFTERNOON HAVE TALKED ABOUT DEMOCRACY--
OF COURSE IT IS THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL CONSIDER THIS MATTER)
THAT THE CONFERENCE SEEK A DEFINITION FOR ARTICLE 17 WHICH WOULD
RPVODE AN ANSWER TO WHAT HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM
FOR THIS ORGANIZATION DURING THE LAST YEARS.

WHAT IS THAT PROBLEM? IT IS THE PROBLEM OF RESOLUTIONS WHICH CON-

DEMN WITHOUT REGARD TO FACTS. IS THIS WHAT THE CONFERENCE WANT? IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HAVE AN ANSWER. I AM CONFIDENT WHAT THAT ANSWER WOULD BE. OF COURSE WE DO NOT WANT THAT. IT IS A PRESSING MATTER AND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER IT. IT INVOLVES A CHANGE IN THE STANDING ORDERS AN ADDITION TO THE STANDING ORDERS--SUPPLYING THE STANDING ORDERS WITH A DEFINITION OF THE REFERENCE TO "WITHHOLDING" CONTAINED IN ARTICLE 17 HOW DO WE OBTAIN A CHANGE IN THE STANDING ORDERS? THE REGULAR PROCEDURE, THE ONLY PROCEDURE WHICH HAS BEEN FOLLOWED THROUGH THE YEARS, HAS BEEN THAT THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE, THE VERY COMMITTEE CREATED TO CONSIDER CHANGES OF THE STANDING ORDERS, CONSIDER THE SUBJECT AND, OF COURSE MAKE ITS REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE. LET US NOT FORGET THAT IT WILL BE CONFERENCE WHICH CONSIDERS, DELIBERATES AND RENDERS ITS JUDGEMENT WITH RESPECT TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS ON ARTICLE 17.

IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A MATTER-A MATTER WHICH IS SO CLEARLY IMPERILLING THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS SO FAR AS THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES OF THE MOST BASIC VIOLATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANIZATION THROUGH MEANS WHICH CLEARLY HAVE TO BE FACED AT THE CONFERENCE. TO REFER IT TO THE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE MEANS WHAT? IT WAS EXPLAINED BY OTHER SPEAKERS THAT IT SHOULD BE COMBINED WITH OTHER MATTERS. THIS WOULD CLEARLY INHIBIT--AND THEY HAVE REFERRED TO DEMOCRACY-- WOULD PREVENT THIS CONFERENCE FROM CONSIDERING WHAT IT WANTS TO DO THIS YEAR WITH RESPECT TO AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17. WHILE WE ARE SPEAKING OF DEMOCRACY IN THIS CONFERENCE, LET US REMEMBER THAT THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH THIS CONFERENCE CAN CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS IS THROUGH THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE. TO UNCLASSIFIED

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REFER IT TO THE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE IS TO PREVENT THE CONFERENCE FROM HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE MATTER THIS YEAR.

A STRUCTURE PROBLEM? IN WHAT WAY DOES THIS AFFECT THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION? THE POINT IS MADE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT AND IS THEREFORE IF IT IS A QUESTION OF STRUCTURE. THIS STRIKES ME AS VERY STRANGE. DO NONE OF THE OTHER COMMITTEES OF THIS CONFERENCE DEAL WITH IMPORTANT MATTERS? IS IT ONLY THE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE WHICH DEALS WITH IMPORTANT MATTERS? WE KNOW WHAT THE HISTORY OF THIS MATTER HAS BEEN THROUGH THE YEARS, AND THAT THE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE HAS SHOWN NO INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM. QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF STRUCTURE. IT IS A PROCEDURAL MATTER RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF VITAL PRINCIPLES FOR THIS ORGANIZATION.

WE ARE FACED WITH A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM AS WE LOOK TOWARDS THE DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE. LET US CONSIDER THAT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DELIBERATE ON THE MERITS OF THE AMEND-

MENT, THE ONLY WAY THAT THE CONFERENCE CAN IN FACT GIVE ITS OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT, IS THROUGH THE ORDERLY, NORMAL PROCEDURE WHICH THE SELECTION COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED AND WHICH I HOPE WILL BE ADOPTED BY THIS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON. THAT IS, THAT THE AMENDMENT LIKE SO MANY OTHER AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS THIS YEAR, BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE WHICH AUTOMATICALLY AND IN EVERY OTHER CASE HAS JURISDICTION OVER AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT: MR. HOROWITZ (GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, UNITED STATES)
I TAKE THE FLOOR VERY RELUCTANTLY AND YET I FEEL COMPELLED TO DO SO, AS A RIGHT OF REPLY.

THE INSINUATION MADE BY THE LAST SPEAKER IS SUFFICIENTLY INSULTING TO MY COUNTRY--BECAUSE THE IMPLICATION WAS QUITE CLEAR--FOR ME TO FEEL COMPELLED TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN ANSWER TO HIS INNUENDOES.

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WE ARE PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE, WITH GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT IN RECENT YEARS, WATCHED PROCEDURES BEING DISREGARDED, PRINCIPLES BEING BROKEN. AND NOW, ON AN ISSUE WHICH INVOLVES THE REESTABLISHMENT OF SOME OF THOSE PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES, FOR MY COUNTRY TO BE ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING--AND THE IMPLICATION WAS CLEAR, LET US NOT DENY IT-- TO IMPOSE ITS TUTELAGE ON THE ORGANIZATION IS THE KIND OF ACCUSATION WE WILL NOT ACCEPT.

WE ARE A MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION; WE TRY TO MAKE OUR FULL CONTRIBUTION. THE TENDENCIES WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED IN RECENT YEARS, AGAINST OUR WILL AS YOU ALL KNOW, FORCED US TO GIVE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION--TWO YEARS' NOTICE--AND IN THAT NOTICE WE SAID THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE. WE WANT, DURING THE TWO YEARS, TO WORK FULLY IN THE ORGANIZATION AND TO SEE WHETHER A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS SHARES OUR CONCERNS WITH ITS PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES. WE ARE NOT SEEKING ANYTHING NEW. WE SIMPLY WANT TO KNOW: DO THE MEMBERS IN FACT SHARE OUR CONCERN WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION HAS SO PAINFULLY DEVELOPED AND SO PROUDLY CARRIED FORWARD? DO WE WANT TO REAFFIRM THEM OR CONTINUE TO DESTROY THEM? DOES A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS WANT TO RETURN TO THE PROCEDURES WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION HAS DEVELOPED THROUGH THE MANY YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE AND WHICH ARE REGARDED, AND HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN REGARDED, BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AS A MODEL TO FOLLOW--PROCEDURES WHICH HAVE INCREASINGLY BEEN INFRINGED IN RECENT YEARS? THIS IS WHAT IS INVOLVED

WE WANT TO PRESSURE NO ONE. WE DO HOWEVER WANT TO KNOW WHETHER A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS SHARE OUR DESIRE FOR A RETURN TO PRINCIPLES, A RETURN TO RESPECT FOR PROCEDURES, TO PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES WHICH ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION HAVE BEEN PROUD TO HAVE AND TO SUPPORT. DO WE WANT TO RETURN TO THAT OR NOT?

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN IN THE ORGANIZATION PROVIDED IT STANDS FOR THE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES WHICH PROMPTED OUR JOINING THE ORGANIZATION IN THE FIRST PLACE. BUT THIS IS NOT A DECISION WE CAN MAKE. IT IS A DECISION THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION MUST MAKE,
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DEMOCRATICALLY, THROUGH ITS CONFERENCE. WE LOOK TO THIS CONFERENCE FOR A SIGN OF WHETHER IT WANTS TO RETURN TO THOSE PROUD PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES WHICH THE ORGANIZATION HAS SO PAINFULLY DEVELOPED.

I REJECT THE INSINUATION THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING SOME SORT OF TUTELAGE OVER THIS ORGANIZATION OR OVER ITS MEMBERS. WE ARE SIMPLY CONCERNED WITH REMAINING IN AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS STOOD FOR SO MANY OF THOSE PRINCIPLES, PROCEDURES AND OBJECTIVES WHICH WE HAVE ALL PURSUED. LET US REAFFIRM OUR INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD. THE MATTERS IS UP TO THE DEMOCRATIC WILL OF THE MEMBERS, AND WE LEAVE IT TO THE DECISION OF THIS CONFERENCE. END TEXT.
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